

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0519

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, WZ

SUBJECT: SWAZILAND GRANTS ASYLUM TO SOWETO STUDENTS

1. FOLLOWING VERBATIM STATEMENT FROM GOS DEPARTMENT
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS CARRIED BY SWAZILAND BROADCASTING
SERVICE (SBS) EVENING NOVEMBER 2: QUOTE

THE SWAZILAND GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT REGARDING SEVENTY-FOUR STUDENTS WHO ARE NOW IN THE COUNTRY FROM SOWETO, WHO HAVE APPLIED TO THE SWAZILAND GOVERNMENT FOR ASYLUM. THE SWAZILAND GOVERNMENT HAS ASSURED THE STUDENTS THAT THEY WILL BE WELL-CARED FOR AND PROTECTED UNTIL THEIR FUTURE HAS BEEN DECIDED. THE STATEMENT ADDS THAT SWAZILAND, AS A PEACE-LOVING AND HOSPITABLE COUNTRY, WOULD NOT TURN AWAY THOSE WHO SEEK GENUINE REFUGE IN THE COUNTRY AND THUS FULFILLING HER OBLIGATION UNDER UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION RELATING TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES TO WHICH IT IS A MEMBER. HOWEVER THE STATEMENT ADDS THAT ANY PERSONS WHO COME INTO SWAZILAND WITH INTENTIONS OF CREATING TROUBLE WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED. FINALLY THE

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STATEMENT SAYS THAT THE SWAZILAND GOVERNMENT

HAS APPROACHED THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS,
WHICH HAS AGREED TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN
RELIEVING THE PLIGHT OF THESE STUDENTS AND THAT
THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES WAS ALSO BEING INFORMED OF THE
SITUATION. UNQUOTE

2. SBS OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBASSY THAT NUMBER OF
SOWETO STUDENTS IN SWAZILAND HAS NOT RISEN ABOVE
NUMBER QUOTED IN NEWS STORY AND THAT STUDENTS
CONTINUE TO ENTER COUNTRY "IN DRIBBLES." ACCORDING
SAME SOURCE, GOS IS PLACING STUDENTS IN SINGLE
LOCATION (UNIDENTIFIED) TO REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF
THEIR CAUSING INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES IN SWAZILAND.
WACHOB

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